

Town of Holderness

Budget Hearing

FY2020/2021

February 5th, 2020

Budget Committee Members

- Ken Evans – Chair
- Todd Elgin
- Bob Maloney
- Kevin Barrett
- Dayna Titus
- Carolyn Mello – School Board
- Jill White – Select Board
- Kelly Schwaner – Select Board Alternate

Budget Committee Review Process

- Receive Budget Presentations from the Town Administrator, Department Heads and the School Board.
- Review Budgeted Expenses and Revenues on a Line Item Basis.
- Ask Questions and Comment on Amounts Without Regard to Increases or Decreases.
- Make Specific Recommendations for the Select Board and School Board to consider.
- Conclude on the Overall Reasonableness of the Budgets.
- Vote to recommend or not recommend Individual Monetary Articles placed on the Warrant by the Select Board.

Tax Rate Comparison

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Town:	2.32	2.15
Local School:	6.59	7.12
State School:	2.16	2.06
County:	<u>1.80</u>	<u>1.84</u>
Total:	\$12.87	\$13.17

Tax Rate History

- 2007 - \$12.22
- 2008 - \$13.18
- 2009 - \$12.96
- 2010 - \$13.11
- 2011 - \$13.16
- 2012 - \$13.50
- 2013 - \$14.54
- 2014 - \$14.38
- 2015 - \$14.18
- 2016 - \$14.18
- 2017 - \$14.18
- 2018 - \$12.87*
- 2019 - \$13.17

*last revaluation

OPERATING BUDGET

- **Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of Two Million Five Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Four Dollars (\$2,572,674) for general municipal operations. Said sum does not include special or individual articles elsewhere within this warrant.
- **Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)**

Town Operating Budget - Expenses

- The proposed operating budget increased \$124,489 (5.1%) from last year.

This consists primarily of increases in the following areas:

Employee Wages and benefits: \$38,335 - Includes merit increases and wage adjustments due to realignment of personnel, changes in job responsibilities and additional employee hours and positions in some departments.

Solid Waste Disposal: \$68,398 – increases in disposal fees associated with the new 5 year solid waste agreement which will go into effect on October 1, 2020

Legal Services: \$10,000 – increased activity in Land Use and other areas.

There were some minor increases in other operating budget lines as well.

Town Operating Budget - Revenues

- Town Operating Budget Revenues are anticipated to increase by \$99,405 (9.8%) from last year.
- This consists primarily of increases in the following areas:
 - Motor Vehicle Registrations: \$25,000 – Adjustment based on review of revenue trends.
 - State and Federal Revenues: \$22,000 – the majority of this come from the partial restoration of the Shared Revenue Block Grant from the State.
 - Recreation Revenues: \$7,000 – Increase in overall registrations
 - Interest Revenues: \$44,000 – Increase in the interest rate obtained from our accounts.
- **Budget Committee Concludes Overall that Budget is Reasonable**

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

- **Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$403,500) to be placed into the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds.
Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND GOALS

- - Continue to Fund Capital Reserve Accounts at or near the overall current amount of \$403,500 annually to avoid overall budget spikes.
- -Adjust yearly contribution levels within existing accounts to minimize or eliminate any long term borrowing while meeting planned capital expense needs. Maintain sufficient reserves to fund unplanned expenses.
- -Maintain ten year Capital expense plan. Review and update with Department Heads, Select Board and Budget Committee as part of the annual Budget process.

Capital Reserve Contributions

RESERVE FUND	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
White Oak Pond Dam	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Fire/Rescue Vehicles	40,000	60,000
Road Reconstruction	150,000	150,000
Library Building	5,000	0
Municipal Buildings	30,000	30,000
Revaluation	35,000	35,000
Fire Equipment	5,000	5,000
Public Works Vehicles	46,000	51,000
Conservation	5,000	5,000
Police Cruiser	19,000	26,000
Transfer Station Equipment	2,000	2,000
Employee Health Insurance	5,000	0
Town Office Information Technology	17,000	10,000
Library Information Technology	10,000	0
Master Plan	5,000	0
Employee Post Benefit Expendable Trust	15,000	15,000
New Cable Expansion	12,000	12,000
Total	\$403,500	\$403,500

Capital Outlay Expenditures

- **Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$392,160) for the following Capital projects and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Select Board to withdraw the sums indicated from Capital Reserve Funds as noted:

Capital Outlay Expenditures (cont)

- Road Reconstruction: \$225,660 (from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund)
- Repair and repave the Parking Area at the Public Safety Building: \$60,000: (from the Municipal Building Capital Reserve)
- Install Storm Windows in the Original Section of the Library: \$5,000 (from the Library Building Capital Reserve)
- Revaluation (Cycle Inspections): \$25,000 (from Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund)
- Town IT Equipment: \$1,500 to add Fire Department Computer to Public Safety Building Computer Network (from the Town Information Technology Capital Reserve Fund)
- Abatement Defense: \$20,000 for legal defense of abatements in Superior Court: \$20,000 (from the Abatement Defense Capital Reserve Fund)
- Employee Post Employment Benefit Trust: \$55,000 payout of benefit to Retiring Employees (from the Post Employment Benefit Capital Reserve)
- **Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)**

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$116,000) for the purpose of purchasing a compressor and ten self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). One Hundred Ten Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$110,200) to come from the assistance to firefighters grant and Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$5,800) to come from the Grant Application Capital Reserve Account. No additional funds will be raised through taxation. No amount shall be expended unless the grant funds are secured.

Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and the Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to survey the Howe Town Forest and to further authorize the withdrawal of the sum indicated from the Town Forest Fund. No additional funds will be raised by taxation.

Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and the Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to reconstruct and repave the sidewalks in the downtown area with the funds for this appropriation to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and the Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to design, permit and construct an expanded parking area in the existing municipal lot behind the Post Office with funds for this appropriation to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Recommended by the Select Board; (4 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention) and the Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for a statistical update of property values with the funds for this appropriation to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and the Budget Committee; (6 yeas, 0 nays)

Non-Monetary Articles

Article 13: Climate Change - By Petition

Article 14: Medicare for all – By Petition

Reminder: 1st Session Town Meeting- Tuesday, March 10. Voting 10-7 @Town Hall*

***A petitioned article to allow Keno will be on the Tuesday Ballot**

2nd Session Town Meeting- Wednesday, March 11. 6:30 @ HCS Gym/Auditorium